NO
Protestant-Plot:
OR
The present pretended *Conspiracy* of *Protestants* against the *King* and *Government*,
Discovered to be a:
CONSPIRACY
OF THE
PAPISTS
Against the:
KING
AND HIS
Protestant-Subjects.

Robert Ferguson

LONDON:
Printed for *R. Lett*, 1681.

The Right Honble Charles Stewart Bruce
of Ampthill Son and Heir Apparent
of Thomas Earl of Ailesbury and Baron
Bruce of Whorleton 1712

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WHILE ſo many Papers have with impunity and connivence been Printed and diſperſed in vindication of the *Papiſts* from the Conſpiracy whereof they are accuſed; We do humbly preſume, That none but ſuch whoſe intereſt it is to have our Religion defamed, and His Majeſties innocent ſubjects deſtroyed, will be offended at this modeſt attempt in juſtification of *Proteſtants* from the Crimes and Treaſons wherewith they are aſperſed. Nor dare we ſuppoſe the preſent Miniſters and Adminiſtrators of Juſtice guilty of ſo great partiality, as to be enflam'd againſt theſe few modeſt ſheets, after they have tollerated and diſpenced with the publication of ſo many Popiſh Pamphlets, full of virulence, as well againſt the Juſtice and Honour of Parliaments, as inferior Courts of Judicature. And if they have eſcaped the animadverſion of Authority, who have with ſo little regard to truth written in favour of perſons actually condemned, we have reaſon to believe that our Judges and Magiſtrates will be far from being diſpleaſed, at what is here tendered to them and the World, in behalf of perſons that are meerly accuſed. For whereas the aſſerting the innocency of ſuch as have been legally condemned, may be juſtly conceived to reflect reproach upon the Juſtice of the Nation, or at leaſt to leave an imputation of want of wiſdom or uprightneſs either upon the Judg or the Jury; the ſupporting the Loyalty of perſons barely accuſed, can only affect the Credit of the Witneſſes by whom they have been charged, and upon

whoſe alone Teſtimony without any publick overt-act of their own, they lye confined. And if they that have appeared as *Apologiſts* for *Coleman* and the five *Jeſuits*, have been ſilently overlookt, notwithſtanding their appearing Advocates for the innocency of thoſe men, not only in contradiction to Oral Teſtimony, but in defiance of Papers and Letters under the hands of the very Criminals, declarative of their Conſpiracy and guilt; we may then aſſure our ſelves of fair quarter in managing a defence for thoſe Proteſtants who have nothing to apprehend or fear from Papers or Letters produceable againſt them, but ſtand committed meerly upon the Depoſitions of a few perſons whoſe credit we ſhall make appear to be too weak to obtain belief.

Nor is there any thing ſo obvious to common ſenſe, than that it is more the intereſt and duty of a Government to have the innocent preſerved, than to have the guilty puniſhed. Accordingly they that are truſted with the Supreme Authority, are in many caſes empowered to pardon offenders; but it was never ſeen in any well conſtituted Society, that Magiſtrates were authorized to condemn the guiltleſs. 'Tis true, at ſome ſeaſons, and in ſome inſtances, there may injuſtice be done to the State in forgiving a Malefactor, as when it is to the infraction of the fundamental Laws, or when it interferes with the ſafety of the Community, or when it may incourage the like attempts in others for the future, or when the pardoning a powerful offender may furniſh him with a further opportunity of executing the evils which he had projected and deſigned; but in condemning a guiltleſs perſon there is not only injuſtice done to him that ſuffereth, but to the whole State, and every individual in it, both in depriving them of a fellow-member, and in trampling

pling upon the Laws by which their own lives are ſecured and protected. And whereas one principal end why Criminals are puniſhed, is to frighten and deter others from involving themſelves under the like guilt, the executing of an innocent perſon is the ready way to cauſe ſuch as are loyal to waver in their fidelity, and inſtigate them, if they apprehend themſelves in danger, to fly to unlawful means for defence and ſhelter. And by how much any undue ways and methods are taken to make a guiltleſs perſon appear an offender, that under the palliation of Law, and with the leſs publick offence he may be deſtroy'd, by ſo much do all men become jealous of their own ſafety, as finding that turned into a ſnare, and perverted to their ruin, which was made and provided for their ſafeguard and protection. But though the love which Proteſtants bear to his Majeſty, and the obligations of Conſcience which they are under to their Soveraign by vertue of their Religion, will be effectual to reſtrain them within the bounds of Allegiance and duty; yet I know not how far it may promote and maintain a miſunderſtanding between his Majeſty and a Parliament, to find a Conſpiracy carried on by indigent perſons againſt the moſt eminent in the Nation, and all endeavours to detect it, either eluded, or reſiſted and withſtood. And were there no other evil conſequences to be apprehended to enſue upon the conniving at ſo execrable Villanies as Subornation and Perjury, it becomes both the King, and all that are lovers of the ſtability of his Throne, to tremble in the belief of thoſe Judgments, which it will provoke the Righteous and Univerſal Governour to inflict upon a Nation, where innocency is no defence againſt hired and foreſworn Raſcals.

And by how much any perſons are conſiderable either with reſpect to their quality, or the eſteem they have in the Nation upon the account of the ſervices which they have done His Majeſty or the Kingdom, by ſo much is it the more diſhonourable, as well as prejudicial to the Government, to have them oppreſſed and deſtroyed by baſe and unjuſtifiable ways. The King is of too much goodneſs, and a Prince of greater wiſdom and more unſtained Juſtice, than that any of his ſubjects ſhould apprehend or fear any thing illegal from him while he acts free and unconſtrained; but how far his Miniſters, eſpecially thoſe who have been exaſperated by the proceedings of Parliaments, may render his Authority a Cloak to their malice, and make the pretence of his preſervation and ſafety ſubſervient to their revenge, is what we are jealous of. And tho' we would fain perſuade our ſelves that they are perſons of more honour and integrity than to make *repriſals* upon the Lives of Peers for the injury which they ſuppoſe was done them; yet the impriſoning my Lord *Shafisbury* upon the credit of Witneſſes whoſe teſtimony they refuſed to believe in the caſe of my Lord *Stafford*, doth not a little ſurprize the thinking part of mankind. Now nothing can be more diſſerviceable to his Majeſty, or leſſening to the honour of his Government, than to have his Authority abuſed to countenance a perſonal quarrel, and his Laws applied to revenge a private offence. Beſides, whenſoever any come to be deſtroyed upon the ſcore of a *pique*, all will judg themſelves threatned who concurred in the provocation. And how much may it perplex his Majeſties affairs in future Parliaments, to have perſons ſo conſiderable for their number, as well as their quality, enter into the houſe under a prepoſſeſſion that their innocency was not able to defend them from the rage of their Enemies? Such

Such is the happineſs of the *Engliſh* Government, that as we do always need the care of our Prince, ſo does he always need the love of his people. And as no King is greater than the King of *England* when poſſeſs'd of the hearts of his ſubjects, and in terms of fair correſpondence with his Parliament; ſo nothing can ſooner loſe him that love which he ought to have in the hearts of his people, nor perpetuate and heighten differences with his Parliament, than the permitting what was done by the body of that Aſſembly, to prove an occaſion of ſpleen againſt a particular perſon; or the ſuffering thoſe to fall by ſiniſtrous means, whom the people look upon as having ſerved his Majeſty with fidelity, and regarded them with tenderneſs and compaſſion. And as no perſon ever periſhed in *England* under the weight of guilt, but the people ſilently bore his ruine, how much ſoever they might pity his misfortune; ſo hardly ever any conſiderable Peer, of whoſe innocency the minds of the people were univerſally poſſeſt, was deſtroyed and overthrown, but it was attended with ſome ill effect or other towards the Government, or the Miniſters that ſat at the Helm, and adviſed it.

Nor do ſome of thoſe who are ſo violent in the proſecution of my Lord *Shaftsbury*, much magnifie their wiſdom, nor ſeem to have well conſulted their intereſt in the doing of it. *For however long it be ſince he who would be thought in earneſt when he bawleth againſt Popery, promoted or connived at it*, I am ſure a certain perſon *within theſe ſeven years laſt paſt*, declaimed againſt the Court, and the Miniſters, with as little reſpect and *decorum* in what he ſaid, as he doth now againſt the Two laſt Parliaments. And whereas my Lord of *Shaftsbury* never ſpake of his Majeſty but with the utmoſt deference; nor

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of his Miniſters, but with that regard which was due to their Character; there is a certain Gentleman in the world, that uſed to ſpeak both of his Prince and them, in another ſtile.

And if the *Earl* of *Shaftsbury* be guilty of any thing againſt his Majeſty, it is in having been ſo unhappy as to have heard him ſpoken of with too much diſregard, and under valuation, by a certain Gentleman that now glories in having the chief ſuperintendency of his affairs. It is natural for ſome people, what intereſt ſoever they eſpouſe, to be always violent; and we can the more eaſily pardon their intemperance againſt thoſe from whom they have withdrawn by remembrig with what choler and acrimony they uſed to diſcourſe of them in whoſe counſels they are now engaged.

It hath been long obſerved, that they who in matter of Religion wheel off from one party to another, are the greateſt haters, and moſt implacable Perſecutors of the ſide which they relinquiſhed; but I never heard till now, but men might ſee reaſons to change meaſures in Politicks, without being for ſacrificing thoſe that cannot ſhift about to the ſeveral points of the State compaſs, as the wind of Court-favour may happen to ſit. Beſides, who knows but that the Witneſſes, whom ſome perſons do ſo tenderly embrace and cheriſh in order to the ruining of my Lord *Shaftsbury* and others, may not upon the diſappointment of the expectations wherewith they flatter themſelves, and a fruſtration of the hopes whereby they have been inveigled, endeavour to attone and make compenſation for what they are doing, by accuſing ſuch as do at preſent manage and ſerve themſelves upon them? For whatſoever men may think of the ſteddineſs of theſe fellows who appear as Evidence concerning a *Presbyteri-*

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an Plot, yet when a Parliament comes throughly to inſpect this affair, and to diſcover the Villany that runs through it, the courage of theſe Gentlemen of the Poſt will fail them, and then to make expiation for their own crimes, they will be ſure to load others with guilt.

Beſides, were my Lord *Shaftsbury* and a few other perſons of Quality once deſtroy'd, how eaſie will it be for ſome whom I forbear to name, to cruſh thoſe that are now ſo inſtrumental in their ruin. There is a certain Gentleman in the North, as well as one, if not more in the Tower, who have memories tenacious of old injuries, and who are not of a temper very inclinable to forgive. For by how much they would be thought great and generous, by ſo much will they prove the more averſe to pardon ſuch as have allowed themſelves to ſpeak of them with contempt, and in a language near to *ridicule*. And though I pretend not to any great proſpect of what is future, yet I dare undertake to foretel, That the day the Earl of *Shaftsbury* falls, ſome that do now ſolace themſelves in the thoughts of it, will be found to have ſupplanted their own ſtanding, and to have ſurrendred their perſons and fortunes to the courteſie and diſcretion of ſuch whom, they have had the unhappineſs to provoke. However, they can never expect that their heads ſhould lye eaſie upon their Pillows, who ſeek to purchaſe their own Indempnity, at the price of the Lives of their fellow-ſubjects.

But to charge a Conſpiracy upon Proteſtants againſt the King, is to ſuppoſe them fools as well as Traytors. For had they no regard to the obligations of Conſcience, yet the reſpect which they muſt be apprehended to bear to their own ſafety, will compel them if they had any love for themſelves, to be loyal to his Majeſty. And as mat-

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ters are ſtated at this day in the world, they muſt firſt forfeit their reaſon, before they can abandon their Allegiance. They are not ſo ſilly, whatſoever others think of them, but that they very well underſtand they hold their Lives as well as their Religion, by no other tenure but the thread of his Majeſties life. For they know what they are to hope for from a Popiſh Succeſſor; and they are not fond to have the miſeries which the Proteſtants ſuffer elſewhere, tranſcribed and re-acted here. If we be guilty of a crime, it is our concernedneſs for the King, and that we are not willing to have another Rival him in his Authority, before he ſucceed him in his Throne. 'Tis our zeal for his Majeſties Life, and that he may reign without a Competitor that hath enraged the *Papiſts* againſt us, and makes them reſtleſs to deſtroy us. Such as expect Preferment and Wealth from the next Heir, may be tempted to diſloyalty to the Regnant Prince; but they whoſe all depends upon his ſafety, will endeavour and pray for his welfare as their own. All the Papiſts hopes expiring with the Dukes Life, they would fain accompliſh their deſigns in re-eſtabliſhing their Religion, and graſping the Power of the Nation into their own hands before he dye: But our whole concernments being wrapt up in the King, who is likely to live as long as the Duke, it is clearly our intereſt to have his Majeſty outlive him. And whatſoever men talk to the contrary, it is nothing but the Earl of *Shaftsbury*'s zeal to have the King ſafe in his Perſon, great in the hearts of his people, and formidable to the Nations about him, that hath created him as many Enemies, as the Happineſs of his Majeſty, the ſecurity of the Proteſtant Religion, and the Proſperity of *England* have. Nor is there any Truth that ſhines with more ſelf-evidence, than that by how much the

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French, the *Papiſts*, and thoſe who are ſingly devoted to the Duke, are my Lord of *Shaftsbury*'s implacable enemies, by ſo much is it the Kings intereſt, and agreeable to the wiſdom of a ſagacious Prince, to protect him againſt all their attempts. For by how much the Duke becomes ſo openly magnified by a daring but unthinking people in the Kingdom; by ſo much does it concern the King to ſupport and preſerve thoſe whoſe Loyalty will not allow them to ſuffer any name to ſound ſo loud as his Majeſties. And I hope all good Subjects will pardon me, if my concernedneſs for my Prince, cauſe me to ſay what my diſcretion would inſtruct me to forbear; namely, That conſidering how numerous and active the *Papiſts* are in the Kingdom, and how many others out of weakneſs, fear, and from hopes of preferment, immix with them, and cooperate to promote their deſigns, I am not without direful apprehenſions, that from the time they can poſſeſs the King that there is a Proteſtant-Plot, they will bring him to rule his Kingdom purſuant to their inſtructions, if they will prove ſo kind as to ſuffer him to govern at all, though it be but under a Guardianſhip.

Nor is it more ridiculous, that there ſhould be a Proteſtant-Plot, than it is incredible that the Earl of *Shaftsbury* ſhould not only be in it, but that he ſhould acquaint Mr. *Fitz-Gerald*, Mr. *Smith*, and *Bernard Dennis*, *&c.* with a deſign of ſeiſing the King, and altering the Government. For we muſt either ſuppoſe him diſtracted when he communicated an affair of that hazard and conſequence to them; or they are not well in their wits, who believe a perſon of his wiſdom and conduct ſhould commit his life and fortune into the hands of perſons who could no ways promote ſuch a deſign, but might and muſt be ſuppoſed likely to betray it.

For whether it was Loyalty to the King, or hope of reward, that brought them to detect the Popiſh Plot, every man muſt needs believe that upon the ſame Principles and motives they would be always ready to diſcover a Proteſtant one. Indigent and deſperate fellows have been ſometimes made acquainted with a Conſpiracy when it was ripe for execution, or they have been tranſacted with about an Aſſaſſination; but that ſuch were ever conſulted with in the forming a Projection of ſo great and dangerous importance, and which required time to perfect, and was to be managed with the greateſt conduct; I crave forgiveneſs, if I ſay, that I muſt renounce my reaſon before I can give credit to it. The Earl of *Shaftſbury* is known to have been a perſon of as large an acquaintance, and of as free and univerſal a converſation with Proteſtants of the beſt Quality, and of all Perſuaſions, as any man in *England*; and yet we hear of none either of the Communion of the Church of *England*, or Phanaticks, with whom he truſted the ſecret of a deſign to ſeiſe the King, only a few fellows of no Religion, (and moſt of whom have not bread to eat but what they get by being the Kings Evidence) pretend to have been in the Cabal. We muſt either believe all others, and many of them the beſt men in the Nation, ſo diſloyal as that they would conceal a moſt horrid Plot againſt their Prince, or we muſt ſuppoſe that there were none in whom this Peer did place a confidence, ſave a few perſons of mean extraction, and debauched lives, either of which are not eaſie to be digeſted by an ordinary faith.

But there is nothing more familiar with the *Papiſts*, than when they are embarkt in deſigns againſt the Government, to raiſe a noiſe and clamour of the Conſpiracies

cies of Proteſtants. This hath been their old method, and though they have often miſſed the advantages which they propoſed by it, yet they know not how to find a better, and therefore do ſtill purſue it. They ſuppoſe that when the watchfulneſs of the State is exerciſed towards one Party, it will thereupon abate and relax towards the other. While a Prince is made believe that he ought to be afraid of thoſe of one ſide, he will find himſelf neceſſitated to place a confidence in thoſe of the other. Let the difference among the Subjects of any King be ſmall or great, as one party decays in his favour, the oppoſite will always grow and riſe. Now a pretence, if received, will as much alarm a Prince, as a reality. For men are not ſway'd by things as they truly are, but as they appear and obtain upon rheir belief.

But that which is moſt remarkable is, That the *Papiſts* never fathered a Conſpiracy upon Proteſtants againſt the Government, but they were either ready to execute one of their own upon them, or they intended it as a ſham to palliate the Villany they were themſelves to perpetrate upon their Rulers. Accordingly when they had conſpired to depoſe Queen *Elizabeth*, and ſet up *Mary* Queen of *Scots*, and were preparing Horſe and Arms to accompliſh the deſign, they were taught by *Mary* her ſelf in her Letter to *Babington*, to pretend that all that Proviſion was to defend *Elizabeth* againſt the *Puritans*, who had reſolved to Depoſe her, *unleſs ſhe would ſubmit her ſelf to their Government.*

And had the Gun-Powder Plot ſucceeded, the guilt and reproach of it was to have been charged upon the Diſſenting Proteſtants. And when they had Maſſacred ſo many thouſand Proteſtants in *France*, they ſuborned Witneſſes to ſwear that the *Admiral* with other principal

persons among the *Hugonots*, had conspired the death of the King and the Duke of *Guise*; and that the blood which was shed in the destruction of so many thousand innocent persons, was only drawn in way of self-defence, and to preserve the King from perishing by the hands of the Hereticks. And had not God protected his Majesty from those that were to have assassinated him 1678. the *Fanaticks* were to have undergone both the *odium* and punishment of it. Which should make every true *English* Protestant heartily pray, That while we are hearkning after the noise and buz of a *Presbyterian* Plot, we be not overwhelmed and destroyed by a *Popish* one.

And if ever the Catholicks found this Artifice needful, their present circumstances make it extremely necessary. Nor is it material whether the generality do believe it; for if it can but impose it self upon the faith of the easie and the credulous, there are those who know there is no such thing that will serve themselves as effectually of it, as if it were.

Two things had rendred the Papists obnoxious to the wrath of the people, and the Justice of the Laws, namely, the perverting the next Heir to the *Romish* Religion, and their being engaged in a Plot to destroy the King, that thereby, for the introducing the Papal Worship, they might accelerate and secure the Duke's ascent into the Throne. And two ways have they endeavoured to avoid the dangers which hung over them, and escape the punishments which they have deserved. One was by fomenting a misunderstanding between his Majesty and his Parliaments, that so they might not only prevent the Popish Plot from being fully detected, but delay the trial of the principal Conspirators. The other was the forging a *Presbyterian Plot*, that thereby they might run the King-

Kingdom upon a wrong ſcent, and get their True Plot to be overlook't or forgotten, through the noiſe of a falſe one. And if the heats and animoſities which do hereupon ſo univerſally boil in the Nation, do not influence the next Parliament to iſſue differences by an Act of Oblivion, they have ſo ordered matters by ſuborning the ſame Witneſſes to ſwear this Sham-Plot, that diſcovered the real, that they hope they will be no more believed hereafter in reference to a Popiſh Conſpiracy, being found perjured in relation to the Treaſons charged upon Proteſtants. And we are the bolder to charge the *Roman Catholicks* for being the Contrivers and Forgers of this *Presbyterian* Plot, not only becauſe it is of the ſame ſtamp and complexion that Mrs *Celliers* was, and deſigned to involve the ſame perſons in the guilt of it, which hers did; but becauſe we had the news of it from *Rome* and *Paris*, ere ever the tidings of it could fly thither from hence.

And as the Papiſts, or ſuch who ſerve their ends, and act by their Principles, are juſtly to be eſteemed the Authors of this Sham-Plot charged upon Proteſtants; ſo they have been forced to ſupport it by Perjuries and Subornations. Truth, eſpecially in witneſs-bearing, is ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary to the ſubſiſtence of Societies, that without it there can be no fellowſhip among men; and this once ſecluded, Laws, which are both the Bonds and Fences of Communities, become only ſnares for the innocent. Therefore by the Law of the Supreme Legiſlator, *If a falſe witneſs had teſtified falſly againſt his brother, the Judg was to do unto him as he thought to have done unto his brother.* Which being a Law founded upon principles and meaſures reſpecting all mankind alike, and not meerly calculated for the *ballance* of the *Judaick* Common-

Commonwealth, it were to be wiſhed that greater attendance were paid unto it in the *Municipal* Laws and Statutes of Chriſtian Nations. The *Delatores*, who were a kind of *Trepans* & *Informers*, being puniſhable among the *Romans more majorum*, ſuffered in a moſt execrable manner. And tho' by our Law the puniſhment of Subornation and Perjury be not death; yet it may concern ſome people to conſider, that a Parliament hath ſometimes after the commiſſion of a Fact, ordained a ſeverer puniſhment to be inflicted upon heinous and dangerous offenders, than the Law had before chalkt out. The *Roman* Hiſtorian not only obſerves, That falſe Informers were only countenanced or connived at in the Reigns of the worſt Emperors; but he conſigns this to poſterity as the blackeſt character of *Tiberius* Reign, That *Delatores genus hominum publico exitio repertum, & pœnis quidem nunquam ſatis coercitum, per præmia eliciebantur: Trepans and falſe Informers, who had been always found a publick miſchief, and whom no penalties or puniſhments could ſufficiently reſtrain, were then encouraged and emboldned by rewards.* The Jeſuits have adapted the Maxims of their Morality, to the exigence of their preſent caſe, by having pronounced it lawful to ſlander or defame any man whom the Papiſts conceive to have done them an injury, or to be an Enemy to their Holy Church. Nor is it ſtrange or ſurpriſing, that they eſteem it lawful to accuſe Proteſtants falſly, ſeeing they think it meritorious to kill them as being Hereticks. And upon this account it might ſeem but a reaſonable deſire, to beg that no Papiſt may be believed againſt the Life or Credit of a Proteſtant. And whoſoever conſiders what liberty they give themſelves to deſtroy us, and what a profligate Age we live in, and how many vile and needy perſons

Rot. Parl. 3. *R.* 2. *N.* 18. *An.* 25. *H.* 8. *N.* 26. *An.* 27. *H.* 8. *N.* 36.

perſons there be, who are ready for a Reward or Bribe to ſwear any man out of his Life and Eſtate; he will, inſtead of being aſtoniſhed to find ſome few accuſed, wonder that the Priſons are not filled with the beſt and moſt loyal of his Majeſties ſubjects, under the imputation of being Rebels and Traitors.

Nor is it a ſmall advantage that our Law hath given them to ruine us, by having made Words Treaſon. I complain not of the Law, ſeeing the Legiſlative Power of the Nation hath enacted it; but it expoſeth an honeſt man to the diſcretion of every Knave that comes into his company, if they be but inclined upon the account of Civil or Religious Principles, or to be purchaſed with Bribes, to depoſe againſt him.

It is reported to the honour and glory of *Auguſtus*, that though he abridged the Senate and the *Romans* of their ancient Liberty, yet he always indulged them the freedom of their Tongues. For when affairs croſs our expectation, and are not ſuited to our intereſt, it is ſome allay to the paſſions of men, that they may ſafely vent their ſenſe and reſentments in talk and diſcourſe. There have been always ſome Laws which were originally intended rather to ſcare and frighten, than made with a deſign that men ſhould periſh by them.

What *Tacitus* ſays of *Felix*, is not unworthy of remark, *Nimiis remediis delicta accendiſſe*, that *he did cauſe diſobedience, by uſing too ſevere methods to hinder it.* And it is a grave obſervation which *Livy* hath concerning *Manlius*, *Remedio ſeditionem accendiſſe*, that *he heightned and enflam'd a ſedition, by ſeeking to quench and allay it by too much rigor.* And the modeſteſt cenſure which Magiſtrates meet with in ſuch caſes, is to uſe the *Hiſtorians* Phraſe, that they are *Graviores remediis quam delicta erant.*

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However, this is certain that when other overt-acts, beſides words, are required to convict a man of Treaſon, there is always room for a rational defence; nor is it eaſie for others to be maſters of his life, unleſs the reality and evidence of his crimes proclaim him guilty; but when perſons lives depend upon meer words, any two Rogues in the world may deſtroy ſuch as are altogether innocent, if they have but the impudence to ſwear home.

Nor can men perſuade themſelves to believe, but that the Impriſonment of my Lord *Shaftsbury* is built upon ſomething which will not abide the Teſt, when they conſider the way and method acccording to which he hath been all along treated. Before either *Coleman* or the *Jeſuits* were ſent to priſon, they were allowed both to know and ſee the perſons who had depoſed againſt them. And it is generally believed, that every *Engliſh* man may demand it as his right. And therefore the refuſing it to my Lord *Shaftsbury*, does ſeem to intimate either that the Witneſſes are not of a credit ſufficient to ſupport the Confinement of ſo great a Peer, or elſe that it was not convenient to truſt their carriages in this matter, as well as the general courſe of their lives, to an early and exact ſcrutiny.

But as if this were not enough to create a ſuſpition of ſome undue and indirect dealing in this affair, the refuſing to adminiſter an Oath to thoſe that were ready to ſwear to *Indictments* of Subornation againſt the Witneſſes, doth exceedingly heighten all mens jealouſies. For not to debate about the legality or illegality of this procedure, being obliged till this buſineſs do either before this or a higher Judicature come under a review, to acquieſce ſilently in the judgment of the Court: I ſhall only ſay, That as it is the firſt Preſident of this kind, ſo the reducing

cing it into common practice, would prove a general obſtruction of the Juſtice of the Law. And to make the receiving of *Indictments* depend upon the pleaſure of the *Attorney-General*, were to ſettle on him a more Arbitrary power than the Laws of *England* have placed in the King himſelf.

But ſhould the Witneſſes againſt my Lord of *Shaftſbury* be guilty of the Subornation whereof they were to have been Indicted, Were it not a crying ſin before God, a diſparagement to his Majeſties Government, and of ill example to Poſterity, as well as an injuſtice to this Noble Peer and his Family, to have him deſtroyed by their Teſtimony? Nor could there have fallen out any thing more to the commendation of the Kings Juſtice, and the vindication of the integrity of his Miniſters, than to have left the credit of the Witneſſes, being thus aſperſed, to the trial and deciſion of the Law. For ſhould their innocency have appeared after a fair and impartial hearing, it would have wonderfully juſtified any Verdict that ſhould come afterwards to be found upon their Evidence. Whereas by the courſe that was taken, moſt men are become apprehenſive of their guilt. And the preventing their being Indicted, will have the ſame effect upon an honeſt Jury where any Bills are preferred upon their Teſtimony, as if they were perjured upon Record.

What baſe and Villanous arts the *Papiſts* will uſe to deſtroy my Lord *Shaftsbury*, is not only evident by their many endeavours to have him ſtab'd, as hath been depoſed by divers perſons to whom the Parliament as well as the Nation have given belief, but may be further confirmed by their intercepting Letters directed to his *Lordſhip*; and after they had in a Hand as near the Original as they could counterfeit, inſerted Treaſon in them, tranſ-

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mitting them to ſuch as would be ſure to acquaint our Miniſters with it.

In brief, there is a certain Gentleman who hath this to recommend him, That he commanded a Regiment of Horſe in the late Kings ſervice, and loſt all for his and his preſent Majeſties ſake, who having *July 4th.* 1681, written to this Noble Peer about the relieving him againſt the Gout, with which he uſeth to be afflicted, had his Letter intercepted; and after an account added to it, *That the Author was able to furniſh this Earl with Forty thouſand men from* France *to oppoſe the Duke of York*, it was then conveyed to ſome of the *French* Kings Miniſters, who they ſuppoſed would ſend a Copy of it hither, as well as improve it to the prejudice of the perſon that wrote it, who then lived in the *French* Dominions. And that this is true, will be not only atteſted by the Gentleman that wrote the Letter, who is now in *England*, but my ſelf and divers others have ſeen the Original, which by a ſtrange Providence was returned into the Gentlemans own hands.

And as this is a freſh argument of the implacable rage which the *Papiſts* bear to the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, ſo it doth further confirm that there is nothing ſo Villanous which they will not do to deſtroy this great and zealous Peer, who by his courage, wiſdom, and intelligence, hath both withſtood and defeated ſo many of their deſigns againſt our Religion, and the ſafety of the Nation.

And how much thoſe of the Church of *Rome*, and ſuch as they can influence and rule, have thirſted after the blood of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and other Honourable Proteſtant Lords, and worthy *Engliſh* Gentlemen, their inſtigating Mr. *Fitz-Harris* and his Wife to father the

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Treaſonable Libel for which he was condemned, upon them, may further ſerve to demonſtrate as well as convince all the honeſt and ſober part of mankind. For Mrs. *Fitz-Harris* by a Depoſition upon Oath, *Aug.* 15. 1681. not only affirms that her Husband a little before his Execution, told her what great offers he had made him if he would have at firſt charged the foreſaid Libel upon the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and my Lord *Howard*, but that he alſo adviſed her to do it as the only means to ſave his life, though he proteſted at the ſame time that they were wholly innocent. She likewiſe depoſeth, that a certain Gentleman whom I forbear to name, *aſſured her, that ſhe ſhould have what ſums of money ſhe pleaſed, if ſhe would accuſe the Earl of* Shaftsbury *and my Lord* Howard *as the Authors of the ſaid Libel.* Nay Mr. *Fitz-Harris* himſelf, the very night before his Execution, wrote a Paper which he ordered to be delivered to his Wife in order to prevent the ſpilling of innocent blood, wherein he tells by *whom he was adviſed to accuſe thoſe Noble Peers, and other Gentlemen of the ſaid Libel, and of having put him upon the diſcovery of the Popiſh Plot; and how he had the promiſe of a pardon to prevail upon him to do it.* And he adds in the ſame Paper, *That as he was perſwaded to accuſe them upon the aſſurance which was given him of ſaving his life, ſo he thought that what he then ſaid would not be ſo prejudicial as his life might be ſerviceable.* But *finding that he was deluded, he declares as before God, that they were innocent, and that he had wronged them in accuſing of them.* And withal adds, *That what he had depoſed againſt the Papiſts was true; and that he had been only too ſparing in accuſing great people among them.* And that this may not be thought a forgery of mine, I do aſſure all the world, that the Original Paper of Mr. *Fitz-Harris* own writing,

is in the hands and cuſtody of a certain Magiſtrate of *London*, who will be ready to produce it when occaſion ſerves. For he with whom it was at firſt left, delivered it to Mrs. *Fitz-harris*, affirming that he could not be at reſt till he had done ſo.

And we are the more inclined to believe this whole Conſpiracy wherein the Earl of *Shaftsbury* and other Proteſtants are ſaid to be engaged againſt the King and the Government, is only a malicious piece of revenge upon the zealous Patriots of our Religion; by conſidering that Juſtice *Warcup*, and Mr. *Edward Fitz-Gerald*, are employ'd to conduct and manage the detection and diſcovery of it. There are ſome men that derive a ſuſpition upon every thing they meddle with; for though they may be honeſt by accident, yet the *byaſs* of their nature lyes another way. As for *Fitz-Gerald*, beſides his being known by all men to be the moſt infamous perſon alive, his preſent confident and impudent Tool *Brian Hayns* depoſed upon Oath againſt him before Sir *G. T. March 6th.* 1681, That he had told him how they were *reſolved to ſham the Popiſh Plot, and that there was no other Plot but a Preshyterian one.* Which is enough to enlighten all men that do not wilfully ſhut their eyes, upon what deſign, and in ſubſerviency to what ends this Proteſtant Conſpiracy was invented and laid. Nor will any queſtion but that a perſon, who after he had come in as a Witneſs concerning a Popiſh Plot, and now denies that there is any ſuch thing, may with as much truth, reaſon and diſcretion, ſwear that my Lord of *Shaftsbury* told him *the race of the Stewards had no more right to the Crown than he had; and that he was reſolved to have a Commonwealth in England*, as *Brian Hayns* in the foreſaid Depoſition informs us from *Fitz-Geralds* own mouth. And for Juſtice

ſtice *Warcup*, we may learn the honeſty and character of the man from this following Order of his Majeſty and the Council, bearing date *July* 21, 1666. *The Right Honourable the Lord* Arlington, *His Majeſties Principal Secretary of State, having on Wedneſday laſt made his complaint to His Majeſty in Council, that Mr.* Edmond Warcup *Juſtice of the Peace for the County of* Middleſex, *had greatly wronged him in his good name, in treating and negotiating with certain perſons for the quitting and indemnifying (in conſideration of a ſum of money) one of the perſons lately ſummoned by His Majeſties Proclamation to repair from beyond the Seas: which Treaty having for ſeveral Months been carried on, and managed by the ſaid Mr.* Warcup, *he had all along falſely made uſe of the Lord* Arlington's *Name therein, as privy and conſenting to the ſaid Tranſaction: Whereupon His Majeſty having cauſed the whole matter to be duly examined by certain of the Lords of His Council, and their Lordſhips having made report yeſterday to His Majeſty at the Board, That the matter was falſe and ſcandalous: It was Ordered by His Majeſty in Council, That in Vindication of the Lord of* Arlington, *and for an example of ſuch unjuſt and pernicious aſperſions brought upon his Miniſters and Government, the ſaid Mr.* Warcup *ſhould be forthwith committed to the* Fleet, *put out of the Commiſſion of Lieutenancy, and remain for ever baniſht the Court; his Royal Highneſs having at the ſame time declared he would likewiſe diſmiſs him his Service. The Lord* Arlington *being left to take his farther remedy againſt him at Law, as his Lordſhip ſhall think good.*

Now being accordingly turned out of Commiſſion, and committed Priſoner to the *Fleet*, he was there viſited by Sir *Th. Cl.* to whom he confeſſed the whole of the Roguery, declaring that if he might be but releaſed, he would

would for ever forſake all publick buſineſs. But being upon his ſubmiſſion at the Board, *Aug.* 17. 1666, and his craving my Lord *Arlington* pardon upon his knees, diſcharged from his Confinement, he was ſoon after, and as the report then went, reſtored to be a Juſtice of the Peace by the mediation and influence of a certain Gentleman now in the North. And the good natur'd *Juſtice* being mindful of old kindneſſes, is at laſt glad of an employment as well as an opportunity of teſtifying his gratitude by compaſſing the deſtruction of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, whom his Patron & reſtorer reckons himſelf diſobliged by.

And that this Proteſtant Plot, under the guilt whereof they would involve the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and many more eminent and excellent perſons, is nothing but a forgery of the *Papiſts*, conducted and managed by Juſtice *Warcup*, and *David Fitz-Gerald*, with ſuch as they can ſuborn to ſupport the invention by falſhood and perjury, will further appear by recounting the attacks which they made upon ſeveral perſons, whom a fear of God and Moral honeſty have preſerved from becoming inſtrumental to the ſhedding innocent blood. Accordingly we are informed by Mr. *E. E.* who hath approved his Loyalty to the King upon ſeveral occaſions, and in divers difficult and tempting inſtances, that both theſe whom we have named, did deal with him to have corrupted his integrity, and engaged him to have been a witneſs in this Papal deſign. For by a Depoſition ſworn before a Magiſtrate, *Aug.* 1. 1681. he declares, *That Juſtice* Warcup *dealt with him to ſwear ſomething towards a* Presbyterian *Plot, and particularly that my L.* Shaftſbury *intended a Commonwealth, and that he with others were preparing Arms to alter the Government.* Tho' both before and ſince this falſe and treacherous man hath affirmed to many perſons of unqueſtionable honour and repu-

reputation, that he neither knew nor believed any thing of a Proteſtant Plot, and that being obliged to my Lord *Shaftsbury* more than to moſt men alive, he ſhould be the greateſt Raſcal under Heaven ſhould he diſſerve him; and that he believed nothing to be true of all that was ſaid againſt him.

The ſame Mr. *E. E.* depoſeth at the ſame time, that *David Fitz-Gerald* told him, *He would ſwear Treaſon againſt the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *and procure others to do the like; and that if he would ſecond him in the ſaid accuſation, he ſhould be highly conſidered.* Nay to that impudency was the former mercenary and baſe man arrived, that he attempted to ſuborn the perſon to whom under God the King owes his life and ſafety, and the Nation its preſent peace, and the enjoyment of the Proteſtant Religion. For the *Doctor*, whoſe credit and truth have approved themſelves before Parliaments, Councils, and Courts of Judicature, aſſures us, that the forementioned Juſtice, *having told him that there was a deſign to take off my Lord* Shaftsbury, *and having reckoned above five and twenty whom he had brought over to ſwear a Proteſtant Plot, and particularly that Mr.* Smith, *Mr.* Dugdale, *Mr.* Turbervile, *and two of the* Macknamara's *were Evidences againſt my Lord, for which the firſt was to have a Deanry, the ſecond a place in the Cuſtom-houſe, the third a Captains place, and the laſt a Lieutenants; he thereupon entreated him alſo to join in the Deſign*, promiſing in the names of the *B.* of *H.* Mr. *S.* and Sir *L. J.* (who we ſuppoſe will in due time vindicate themſelves from the aſperſion) that if he would engage, he ſhould have what Promotion he pleaſed.

And that this pretended Conſpiracy againſt his Majeſty and the Government, is all *Sham* in it ſelf, and only formed

formed by the enemies of our Religion, to make us odious to his Majesty, lessen the fury of the Nation towards the Papists, and to destroy such as have any zeal for Protestancy, or the Laws and Liberties of the Land, will receive further evidence and light from the Testimony of those whom, though *Warcup* and *Fitz-Gerald* did not immediately inveigle and assault, yet their Emissaries and factors, and such as they had corrupted and brought over, did.

Accordingly Mr. *L. M.* in a Deposition upon Oath, *Aug.* 25, 1681, tells us, *That Mr.* Ivie, *and* Bernard Dennis, *had endeavoured to perswade him to swear against the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *my Lord* Howard, *and others, that they had raised Men, Money, and Arms, to secure and depose the King, if he would not yield to such things as they should desire.* And that Mr. *John Smith*, Justice *Warcup's* Candidate for the first Deanry, and *Serjeant Jefferies* man of known Learning, had also treated with and advised *him to swear the Protestant Plot against the same two Noble Persons, and divers others*; and that *John Macknamar*, who by the Justices Order shall have the Reversion of the next Lieutenancy, *would have enticed him to swear a Plot against the* Presbyterians, *namely that they were to seise the King, that there were Horse, Arms and Money raised by the Duke of* Monmouth, *the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *and several Citizens of* London, *to that purpose.* It is observable, that whereas my Lord Chief J. *North*, and Sir *George Jefferies* knew of no Protestant Plot, but only that Mr. *Colledg*, who stiled himself of that Religion, was guilty of Treasonable insinuations, words & endeavours against his Majesty, yet Mr. *Smith*, and Mr. *Ivie* had one in lavender for them, which was to be brought upon the Stage as they were to be prompted by the Masters

of

of this new *Tragick Comedy* who ſtood behind the Curtain, and as they ſhould ſee rewards Crowning their Service. But how many this OTHERS may include in the Belly of it, paſſeth my skill to conjecture or foretel, only I hear it is already multiplied in Mr. *Smith's* Arithmatick to a hundred, and whether it may not Spawn into thouſands by the warmth of Cathedral Preferment, I cannot at preſent tell, but muſt leave to be diſcovered and unridled by time.

Nor is *L. M.* the only Perſon whom they that were liſted in the Juſtices Roll of Witneſſes, have blab'd the Secret of a Proteſtant Plot unto, but there is one Mr. *Z.* to whom they diſcovered the bleſſed project from a hope of prevailing upon him to promote the ſpilling the Blood of Innocents.

Now this Mr. *Z.* in a Depoſition which he made *June* 23. 1681. Tells us that Mr. *Ivie having acquainted him that the King had appointed the* F. *of* H. *my* L. H. *my* L. C. *and Mr.* S. *to be a Committee to give aſſurances of Pardon, and to allow Gratuities to all that would ſwear againſt my Lord* Shaftsbury, *and that there is a Presbyterian Plot, he then endeavoured to perſwade him to ſwear High Treaſon againſt the ſaid Earl of* Shaftsbury, *and Mr.* Speak *the Elder, of* Somerſetſhire, *adding it was all one tho' he had never ſpoken with them, yet it would confirm what he and others had ſworn againſt them.* Truly Mr. *Ivie* approves himſelf a thankful Perſon, and in reference to Mr. *Speak*, hath verified the Proverb, ſave a Thief from the Gallows and he will cut your Throat. But I ſhall never wonder that theſe Fellows have the confidence to ſwear falſly againſt Proteſtant Peers and Gentlemen, having the impudence to ſpeak at this rate of the King and his chief Miniſters. And it is to be hop'd that His

Majeſty out of regard to his own Honour, and the Reputation of the Government, as well as out of Juſtice to his Loyal Subjects, will in due time bring theſe Miſcreants to condign Puniſhment.

Moreover, that this Proteſtant Plot hath no real Foundation, but is meerly forged by the Papiſts, and ſuch as are Penſioners to them; I ſhall make uncontrolably evident from the very Witneſſes that have depoſed it. For the ſilly Raſcals have as little Wit, as they have Conſcience. And tho' they were ſo wicked as to Embark in Perjury, yet they have not the Prudence to conceal their Crime.

1. To ſome they imparted the motive upon which they engaged in ſo black an undertaking, as that they would not be neglected and ſtarved. Thus *Hayn's* acquaints *L. M. That his neceſſitous condition forced him to take deſperate reſolutions; and to make his Fortune, he would ſwear a Plot againſt the Presbyterians; being pleaſed to add that any plauſible thing would be believed againſt them.* Turbervile *likewiſe told the ſame Perſon, that rather than he would ſubmit to want, he would make the Lives of* Monmouth, Shaftsbury, *and ſome of the Factious Citizens ſmoke.* It is fairly bid for Bread, but it is withal ſad to conſider that the Blood of the Greateſt, Beſt, and moſt uſeful Subjects in *England,* muſt be the price of their Commons.

2. To others they Communicated the Offers and Terms by which they were tempted. Thus *Tarbervile* told *D. O. That* Warcup *offered him any thing he would deſire, provided he would ſwear againſt the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *my Lord* Howard, *Mr.* Rouſe, *and Mr.* Whitaker. And *John Macknamarra* confeſſed to the ſame Perſon, to Mr. *S. O.* Mr. *M. B.* and Mr. *T. P.* That the ſaid Juſtice had

had tempted *and profer'd them ſeveral Hundred Pounds i he would recant his Evidence againſt the Papiſts, and ſwear againſt my* L. Shaftsbury. And Mr. *Bernard Dennis* reveal-ed to *D. O.* Mr. *R. B.* and Mrs. *M C.* that *Warcup* and *David Fitz-Gerrald tendered him great things, if he would depart from his Evidence about the Popiſh Plot, and ſwear againſt the* Earl *of* Shaftsbury, *my* L. Howard, *and others.* Yea the Petition which *Edward Turbervile, John Macknamarra, William Lewis* and *Hubart Burk*, preſented to my *L. Mayor*, the Alderman and Commons of *London* in Common Council, do in effect not only inſinuate, but declare the ſame. Nor doth it only intimate their being tempted to retract what they had depoſed againſt the Papiſts, but it implies that they were alſo ſuborned to charge a Plot upon Proteſtants. And becauſe tho' the Petition was read upon *Colledges* Trial, yet it was not publiſhed in the Printed Narrative; I ſhall therefore here ſubjoyn ſo much of it as is pertinent to the preſent occaſion: *Namely, that after all the Diſcoveries of a damnable helliſh Popiſh Plot, the Papiſts were reſtleſs in their endeavours, not only to ſtifle and diſcredit the belief of it, by Tampering and Labouring to corrupt ſome of the moſt conſiderable Witneſſes, and Hiring and Suborning moſt infamous Perſons to defame and weaken the Teſtimony of Others, but alſo to impute the Plot unto, and devolve it upon the Innocent Proteſtants: and that the Papiſts had ſo far wrought upon the Neceſſities of ſome, that for a preſent ſupply they had Shipwrack'd their Conſciences.*

3. The Garb and Port that the Witneſſes are gotten into, as well as the having their Pockets full of money, and being able to pay their old Debts, do proclaim to to all the world, that they are liberally rewarded for what they have undertaken. But all I ſhall ſay in reference to

this, is only to beg two things of Juſtice *Warcup*, and *David Fitz Gerrald*, which I do rather crave of them than others; as ſuppoſing they are as well the Paymaſters for the Witneſſes; as the Brokers for the Lives of Proteſtants. The *firſt* is, that they would honeſtly tell us, at what price they value us, when they drive a bargain for our Blood; and *ſecondly*, out of what Treaſury they pay the Money which we are ſold for. The knowledg of theſe things will be more uſeful to us, than may be they are aware off: But if they will not be ſo kind as to tell us this of their own accord, I hope they will forgive us, if in due time we file a Bill in the Court of Parliament, to make them ſhow by what authority they have driven Bargains concerning the Lives of His Majeſties Liege People, and which way two men, the beſt of which can hardly pay their debts, ſhould be able to purchaſe the Heads of Peers and Gentlemen. But notwithſtanding the Witneſſes, which by the moſt undue means they have been able to muſter; yet I cannot perceive but that they will have a hard, if not an impoſſible Task of it, to gain the Life of my Lord *Shaftsbury*; Nor hath the Credit of the Evidence been ſo advanced by *Colledges* Trial, that they ſhould be forward to venture them afreſh againſt this Great and Wiſe Peer. I pretend not to write remarks upon the Trial of the man at *Oxford*, much leſs to condemn either Judges, Council, or Jury, in reference to that proceeding; but what I have to ſay is briefly this, that I do not find People much the better prepared to believe the Witneſſes a ſecond time, by their acquainting themſelves ſo ſucceſfully at the firſt. For, conſidering upon what diſadvantages the man pleaded, being deprived of his Papers, denyed a Pannel of the Jury, and refuſed

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the assistance of any Friend to stand by him, and much more of a Soliciter to assist him; I do not see what cause there is to boast of any Reputation acquired by the Verdict brought in upon the Evidence. Indeed the credit of the Witnesses appear'd so much weakned, and their Testimony so greatly shaken by the Defence which he made, and the Informations which were given in his behalf, that my Lord *N.* whom none can Imagine prepossessed in his Favour, is reported to have offer'd to lay a Wager that he would have been brought in not guilty. Nor is it impossible, but that the Papists might as well procure Suborned Villains to swear falsly against the poor man to hang him, as they have found Rascals to Frame and Publish a sham Speech, whereof he never spoke one word, as his last and dying confession. For, they who have a Liberty to Defame the Dead in so unheard of and barbarous a manner, may likewise have a dispensation to destroy the living by Forgeries and Calumniations. Nor is it so new or monstruous a thing to hire false Witnesses to destroy an Innocent, as to impose not only upon the World, but the Party that suffers his confessing himself in his *Exit* a Traitor, when his last Words were to pronounce himself Guiltless. Nor doth what I say cast any reflection upon the Justice of *Colledges* Condemnation, it only declares the good Nature and excellent Qualities of the Church of *Rome*, which being able to legitimate so infamous a Forgerie against the Dead, may also sanctify perjury against the Living. Courts of Judicature being to proceed as things are sworn and appear upon Oath before them, are not to be charged for shedding Innocent Blood, though the Person cast and condemned, be never so Guiltless, unless the falsehood of the Testimony be detected, and the perjury lye evident before them. But

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as the World is better inform'd of the value and complexion of the Witneſſes than it was before, ſo they will find my Lord *Shaftsbury* a Perſon of other kind of Parts and Sagacity, than they found the poor *Joyner*.

And ſeeing the Witneſſes have been hitherto vieu'd only in an imperfect Light, I hope the Gentlemen will not be offended if I draw aſide the Curtain and ſhew them in their natural and true Colours. And to begin with *Dugdale*, we ſhall be ſo favourable as to joyn iſſue with him as to his Honeſty and Reputation, upon the very point where he himſelf hath openly ſtaged it. For he was pleaſed to offer at Mr. *Colledges* Trial, ſee p. 50. *That if any Doctor will come forth, and ſay he cured him of a Clap, or any ſuch thing, he will ſtand Guilty of all that is imputed to him.* Now that which had beeen imputed to him was that, ſee *Colledges* Trial. p. 49. *he ſhould call God to witneſs he knew nothing againſt any Proteſtant in* England, *and that being afterwards challenged for appearing to ſwear againſt Mr.* Colledge, *he ſhould ſay it was long of Collonel* Warcup, *for he could not get his money elſe.* And as what is charged upon him, is ſo groſs and villanous, that it proclaims him a Perjured and Suborned Raſcal to all the World, if it be true; ſo providing he ſtick to his own Propoſal, I do affirm in the Face of all Man-kind that it is true. For beſides that Dr. *Lower* and Dr. *Needham* preſcribed unto him for that Diſeaſe, Dr. *Carey* undertook and cured him of it.

The next perſon that ſupports the belief of a Proteſtant Plot is Mr. *John Smith*, a Gentleman of ſo celebrated a repatation, that people do commonly believe it is his Teſtimony upon which this Proteſtant Plot doth chiefly bear. We deſire therefore to be forgiven, if we have been the more

more diligent to enquire concerning the credit of the man, being alſo told, and that by ſuch as had it from himſelf, how he can take away the lives of a Hundred, had he but others to join with him. Now his being reported to diſſemble both his Name and his Countrey, gives ſome folk a ſhroud ſuſpition that he is not the perſon which at firſt he was ſuppoſed to be: For whereas he profeſſeth himſelf an Engliſhman, and goes by the name of *Smith*, there are thoſe that ſay he is an *Iriſh* man, and that his true name is *Barrie*. 'Tis true this ſignifies not much to us, further than to inſinuate, that whoſoever goes by a falſe name, eſpecially when there is no neceſſity for it, is very likely to have a treacherous heart and a falſe tongue; and that he who pretends himſelf to be what he is not, may alſo both pretend and ſwear he knows, what he doth not. But of how little moment ſoever it is to us, it is of mighty conſequence to himſelf, ſeeing *John Barrie* may be hanged for his former Treaſons, notwithſtanding His Majeſty hath graciouſly pardoned *John Smith*. They alſo ſay, that he hath not only ſworn to a Hundred Gentlemen, but affirmed and averred to the King himſelf and his publick Officers, that he is the Author of Books which he never wrote a Line of, but obtained another to Pen them, and to allow him the profit and reputation of them. But the miſery of it is, that he who paſſeth ſecretly for the Author of them is a Fanatick, and it is apprehended that there is no hope of bringing him to own them, (eſpecially having been diſciplin'd for one of them by the Council) tho' the ſafety of his beſt Friends depended upon it. For men of that ſtamp are commonly thought to be timorous, and care not much what befall others, providing they may ſleep in a whole skin. And to add but one thing more in reference to this Gentleman, if ſaying one thing

to divers perſons of unſuſpected credit, and ſwearing the contrary before a Magiſtrate, be ſufficient to blaſt a mans reputation, Mr. *Smith*'s Teſtimony will not ſignifie a ruſh againſt my Lord *Shaftsbury*. For there are many Witneſſes ready to depoſe, and thoſe of good quality and undoubted credit, how they have heard him often ſay ſince the *Oxford* Parliament, that he knew nothing againſt that Noble Peer.

Having given this ſhort account of theſe two, who among all thoſe who have appeared to ſwear a Proteſtant Plot are reputed the beſt, it will not be expected that I ſhould plunge my ſelf into Kennels and Bogue-Houſes, as I muſt needs do ſhould I proceed to unvail and repreſent the reſt. For if Fellonies, Burglaries, and Robbing of Churches can render men Infamous and Unworthy to be believed, then *Hayns*, *Dennis*, *Ivy*, *Turberveile* and the two *Macknamarra's* are for ever debarred the having credit giving to any thing they ſay.

Nor let any think that the disbelieving the Witneſſes in Relation to a Proteſtant Plot, will to uſe Sir *George Jefferies* Phraſe, ſee *Colledges* Trial, p. 91. *trip up the heels of all the Evidence and Diſcovery of the Popiſh Plot*, ſeeing we have enough to prove a Papal Conſpiracy, were all the Witneſſes in their Graves. And it is ſomething ſtrange how men come to endeavour to weaken the credit of Dr *Oats*, and yet pretend they would keep up the belief a Popiſh Plot. However, there is no reaſon to believe men when they affirm things Impoſſible as well as incoherent, though their word may be taken in reference to matters, which not only carry a probability but include in themſelves a Moral certainty. Nor is it juſt and fair, that rather than ſuch as are turned Rogues ſhould not ſtill be accompted honeſt, thoſe that have

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been always Loyal, must upon their word be esteemed Traitors.

And the late detection of a *Sham*-Plot in *Ireland*, which the Priests were forging to ruine the Protestants there, may serve to put it out of all suspicion and doubt, that the Conspiracy sworn against those of that Religion here, is of the same kind, and hammered in that forge. The sum of what we have transmitted from *Dublin*, of a Plot which was transacting in that Kingdom to this purpose, I shall here subjoyn from a larger Copy that was sent the Council the last week; namely, *That one* St. Lawrence *a Priest*, July, 7. 1681. *came to one* William Smith *Gentleman, being then a Prisoner in the Marshalsea of that City, where he had lyen about four years, and having bewailed his sad Confinement, promised to procure him Money to set him at Liberty, and put him into a good equipage, providing he would condescend to such things as he should propose. And after Mr.* Smith *had signified his readiness to comply, if what* St. Lawrence *proposed were legal and possible, the Priest proceeded to administer an Oath of Secrecy to him, and afterwards told him, that to Swear any thing, against a Protestant Heretick, for the Catholick Good, is to do God good Service; and that an Oath taken upon a Protestant Bible needs no scruple of Conscience nor inward remorse, being all one as to Swear upon Æsop's Fables: And that what he Swore on the behalf of the Catholicks (especially in these times) tho' never so false, is by a Power allowed from the Pope to every Priest in Orders, fully, clearly, and absolutely Pardoned by the Priests Absolution, after Confession made unto him. And therefore that which he desired him to do, was to Swear, that Mr.* Parsons, *Mr.* Jack, *and Dr.* Harrison, *Heretical Ministers in* Dublin, *had offered to pay his Debts, if he would*

Priest told him, That the Duke of York *was so far concerned in the Plot, that he sided with the Pope and the* French *King, to introduce the* French, *to invade the Kingdom of* England *and* Ireland, *to put the King to Death, and to murder all the Protestants. And that they would have him further to Swear, He had heard* Papists *declare they would bring it about to be* a Presbyterian-Plot; *and to Suborn Witnesses against the Earl of* Shaftsbury, *the Duke of* Monmouth, *&c. and bring their Heads to the Block.* And then the Priest added such Trasonable things of His Majesty, as I tremble to write; namely, *That the King would easily believe this Information, by reason he would have any occasion to destroy them, being the people that Murdered his Father. The said* St. Lawrence *told him also that he must Swear, That the said Ministers called his Majesty a Papist, and had said, He designed the Destruction of his Subjects, and to establish the Popish Religion in* England, *and the rest of his Dominions; and that they plainly perceived his Intention was to bring his said Subjects under a Tyrannical Government: And that the said Ministers should further say, That they and their Brethren intended ere this to have had the King in their Power, and to have disposed of him at their pleasure; nay, to have made him shorter by the Head: But failing in this, they were resolved to spend their Lives and Fortunes to make out a Popish Plot. Now says* St. Lawrence, *upon your Deposing this, the Hereticks will be utterly confounded, and we cleared; and all the* Presbyterians *and other Dissenters will be accused not only of the said Plot, but be reputed Guilty of all the Blood that hath been spilt. And says the Priest, If you will undertake this, you need not doubt for you shall have the Prayers of the Catholick-Church to prosper you; besides, other Witnesses shall be procured to second this your Information, for by Gold or Silver they may be obtained to it. The Priest*

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further added, That the Catholick Lords *in the* Tower *had already given large Sums to ſuborn Witneſſes againſt the Earl of* Shaftsbury; *and that Fourty would appear againſt him, for they were reſolved to make it a* Presbyterian-Plot. *And that upon the ſaid* Smith's *replying, that he neither knew Mr.* Jack *nor Mr.* Harriſon: *The Prieſt anſwered, He muſt write to them, and declare, that he had been a lewd and wicked Sinner, and long out of the way; But that God now touching him with an inward remorſe of Conſcience, he did therefore beſeech them, for Chriſt Jeſus ſake, to come to him and adminiſter ſome Spiritual Comfort. And ſays* St. Lawrence, *you may be ſure they will come, and when they have been by others ſeen with you in the houſe, it is enough for the buſineſs, and will turn to the ruine of themſelves and many thouſands of them, whoſe Blood, ſaid he, I hope to ſee ſpilt by the hands of Catholicks. And, ſays he, I am certain that in two or three years time, there will not be a living* Proteſtant *in* England *nor* Ireland. *And that he added further, that when* Smith *ſhould come into* England *to teſtifie this, he muſt profeſs himſelf a Proteſtant, and let none know that he was a Catholick; and that he ſhould be diſpenſed with for ſo doing.*

Now I ſuppoſe this needs no commentary to Engliſh Proteſtants, and beſides, the Paper informs, that the Prieſt acknowledged that it was only a counterpart of what is doing here.

I am ſenſible that this juſt, as well as neceſſary endeavour of detecting the combination of impudent and indigent perſons, acted and influenced by the Papiſts againſt the Proteſtant Religion, and under His Majeſty its chiefeſt friends and aſſertors, will not only alarm but enrage thoſe who have Sworn againſt others for money and rewards, to depoſe at random againſt the Author from Principles of Malice and Revenge. For to all the other

unqueſtionable proofs of a Conſpiracy to deſtroy guiltleſs perſons, this is as certain and unqueſtionable argument of it as any, that whenſoever they can learn or imagine that any perſon is to appear againſt them to lay open their villanies, they immediately charge him with a Plot to ſeiſe and depoſe the King, and alter the Government. Accordingly Mr. *Wilmore* having been inſtrumental to find an *ignoramus* upon a Bill which they had ſworn, and being prepared by what they had declared and acknowledged to himſelf, to enfeeble and take off the credit of the moſt principal Evidence, he was himſelf accuſed of High Treaſon by them, to prevent and obſtruct his Teſtimony: For as he was never queſtioned for, neither heard of any thing charged upon him before he was upon that Jury, ſo he too well learned the temper and character of the men ever after to converſe with them. And Mr. *Everard*, who ſtood as fair in their eſteem as any man alive before his going to *Oxford*, upon his revealing ſomething there againſt Juſtice *Warcup* and others, and his being ready to have ſaid more if the Court had judged it pertinent to the occaſion, and would have had the patience to hear him, had immediately after his return Warrants iſſued againſt him, for ſuch High and Traiterous crimes as thoſe againſt whom he is able to inform, thought convenient for their own ſafety to depoſe and ſwear: So that we are reduced into the moſt woful circumſtances, and brought into the moſt deplorable condition, that ever people were that have ſo good a King, and enjoy ſuch excellent Laws for the ſafety of the Subject: For be we never ſo innocent, theſe hired and ſuborned fellows are ready to ſwear us guilty, when either obliged unto it for their own preſervation, or prompted thereunto by the unſeen and hidden managers of the deſign. And if we be ſo fortunate as to

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know of any that can detect the conſpiracy againſt our lives, or lay open the forgery of our accuſers, they are inſtantly informed againſt upon Oath, and brought into the ſame hazard with our ſelves. Thus Mr. *Edward Whitaker* was taken into cuſtody the very morning that *Colledges* Indictment was to be preferred at the *Old-Bayley*, the perſons that promoted it being apprehenſive he was able to diſſerve the buſineſs they were upon. Which as it hath compelled the Author of theſe ſheets to conceal the Names of many principal perſons who can unriddle this whole Myſtery, and pull off the diſguiſes and vizors whereby this affair is obſcured and conccaled from the knowledg of the world; ſo there is nothing more deſired than that we may have a fair opportunity without the ſeiſure of our Papers, to diſcover this black and helliſh conſpiracy, before impartial Judges and an underſtanding Jury. And for my ſelf, I defie thē invention and the malice of all the Witneſſes, having not only a teſtimony in my ſelf of moſt ſincere loyalty to the King and the Government, but having alſo as many Witneſſes of it, as I have had either the honour, or an occaſion to be known unto.

FINIS.